



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/817,821	03/26/2001	Keith Hall	SMX 3071.1 (99-22R1)	7846

45735 7590 09/19/2005

SENNIGER, POWERS, LEAVITT & ROEDEL
ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE
16TH FLOOR
ST. LOUIS, MO 63102

EXAMINER

TRAN, MY CHAU T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1639

DATE MAILED: 09/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/817,821

Applicant(s)

HALL ET AL.

Examiner

MY-CHAU T. TRAN

Art Unit

1639

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 90-122 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 96,97,103-105,108-112,115,120 and 121 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 90-95,98-102,106,107,113,114,116-119 and 122 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Application and Claims Status

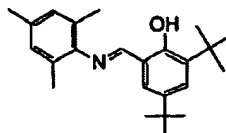
1. Applicant's amendment and response filed 07/22/2005 is acknowledged and entered. Claims 1-10, and 14-71 have been cancelled. Additionally, it is noted that claim 103 is incorrectly designated as "previously presented" when it should be designated as "withdrawn" since the claim is withdrawn.
2. Claims 1, 14, 15, 90, 91, 100, 101, and 107 were amended by the amendment filed on 12/20/2004.
3. Claims 11-13, and 72 were canceled, Claims 1, 4-5, 9, 14-15, 47, 56, and 57 were amended, and Claims 90-122 were added by the amendment filed on 01/14/2004.
4. Claims 73-89 are canceled by the amendment filed on 01/31/2003.
5. Claims 90-122 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

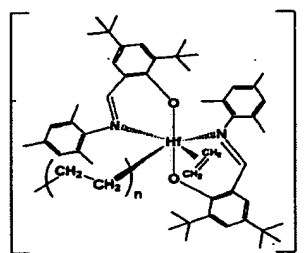
6. Applicant has elected the following species for the elected invention (Claims 90-122) in the reply filed on 01/31/2003 and 05/18/2003:
 - a. A species of soluble metal precursor: Formula $MR_n = Hf(CH_2Ph)_4$
 - b. A species of coordination number for metal-binding ligand: 2

Art Unit: 1639

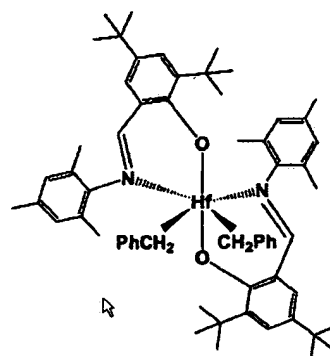
- c. A species of charge for metal-binding ligand: -1



- d. A species of metal-binding ligand: (2,-1)
- e. A species of activator: $\text{PhNMe}_2\text{HB}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4$
- f. A species of property of interest to be screened: Chemical property
- g. A species of screening method: Gravimetric measurement of the product yield
- h. A species of number of ligands in the array: 8
- i. A species of deprotonating agent: BuLi



- j. A species of polymerization product: , and thus the species of polymerization monomer is polyethylene homopolymer and the



species a meta-ligand composition is

Art Unit: 1639

7. Claims 96, 97, 103-105, 108-112, 115, 120, and 121 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to *nonelected species*, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 01/31/2003 and 05/18/2003.

Priority

8. This instant application claims benefit to a provisional application of 60/191,933 filed 03/24/2000. This instant application is granted the benefit of priority for 60/191,933 filed 03/24/2000 under 35 U.S.C 119(e).

9. Claims 90-95, 98-102, 106, 107, 113, 114, 116-119, and 122 are under consideration in this Office Action.

Withdrawn Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

10. The indicated allowability of claims 90-122 is withdrawn upon reconsideration of the claimed limitation of “*wherein the displaced solublizing ligand reduces the catalytic activity of the metal-ligand composition in the polymerization mixture by less than about 80%*”, the references of Weinberg et al. (US Patent 6,030,917) and Johnson et al. (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1995**, 117(23), pgs. 6414-6415) and the instant claims 99 and 107.

11. This Office Action is a Non-Final Office Action and the examiner apologizes for any inconvenience.

Art Unit: 1639

New Rejection(s)

12. *The presently claimed invention recites a method for preparing and screening an array of metal-ligand compositions. The method comprises the steps of (a) preparing an array of metal-ligand compositions in a plurality of discrete reaction vessels contained by or within an integrated structure and the preparing step comprises delivering a metal-binding ligand and a dissolved, soluble metal precursor to each of the plurality of reaction vessels of the array which combine to form the metal- ligand composition; (b) delivering a polymerization monomer to the metal-ligand compositions in the plurality of reaction vessels of the integrated structure to prepare an array of polymerization mixtures; (c) subjecting the array of polymerization mixtures in the integrated structure to conditions conducive to the formation of a polymerization reaction product; and (d) screening said array for a polymerization reaction product.*

The plurality of reaction vessels of the array contains different metal-ligand compositions. The soluble metal precursor comprises a solublizing ligand and formation of one or more of the metal-ligand compositions are accompanied by the displacement of said solublizing ligand. One or more of said polymerization mixtures contains a displaced solublizing ligand resulting from the preparation of said metal- ligand compositions.

The solublizing ligand reduces the catalytic activity of the metal-ligand composition in the polymerization mixture in the polymerization reaction by less than about 80%. This limitation is interpreted as a functional property of the instant claimed solublizing ligand.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

Art Unit: 1639

invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

1. Claims 90-95, 98-102, 106, 107, 113, 114, and 116-119 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinberg et al. (US Patent 6,030,917) and Johnson et al. (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1995**, 117(23), pgs. 6414-6415).

The applied reference has a common inventor, i.e. Johannes A. M. van Beek and Vince Murphy, with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). For applications filed on or after November 29, 1999, this rejection might also be overcome by showing that the subject matter of the reference and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. See MPEP § 706.02(l)(1) and § 706.02(l)(2).

Weinberg et al. teach the methods for the synthesis and characterization of arrays, i.e. libraries of catalysts and organometallic compounds (see e.g. Abstract; col. 1, lines 16-25; col. 3,

Art Unit: 1639

lines 30-36). Weinberg et al. disclose a method of making an array of metal-ligand compounds wherein the step comprises reacting a metal binding ligand with a metal ion (refers to the metal precursor) (see e.g. col. 3, lines 37-54; col. 9, line 45 to col. 10, line 15). The array comprises different metal-ligand compounds at known location and the synthesis can be conducted using solution-phase synthetic technique (refers to the limitation of a plurality of discrete reaction vessels contained by integrated structure and contain different metal-ligand compounds, and instant claim 92) (see e.g. col. 3, lines 55-64; col. 10, line 66 to col.11, line 12; fig. 14). The synthesis also includes adding an activator such as $\text{PhNMe}_2\text{HB}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4$ (refers to instant claims 100, 101, 113, and 114) (see e.g. col. 11, lines 28-37). The metal ion is transition metal ions (refers to instant claim 98)(see e.g. col. 11, lines 13-17; col. 24, lines 46-48). The metal-binding ligand includes ligands such as heterocyclic compounds and ancillary ligands (refers to instant claim 102) (see e.g. col. 15, line 61 to col. 16, line 11; col. 16, lines 20-34; col. 16, line 35 to col. 21, line 61). Additionally, the libraries are screened for useful property such as polymerization reaction (see e.g. col. 11, lines 38-67; col. 26, line 63 to col. 27, line 10).

The method of Weinberg et al. does not expressly include a soluble metal precursor comprising a solublizing ligand, and the method of screening the metal-ligand composition for activity by way of polymerization reaction.

Johnson et al. disclose the methods of using soluble transition metal-based catalysts for polymerization of ethylene and I-olefins (see e.g. pg. 6414, left col., lines 1-7; pg. 6414, Scheme 1). The transition metal is palladium and nickel (refers to instant claim 98)(see e.g. pg. 6414, left col., lines 15-24; pg. 6414, Scheme 1). The solublizing ligand is methyl and Br (refers to claims 10, 22, 40-41) (see e.g. pg. 6414, right col., lines 1-4; pg. 6414, Scheme 1). The metal-binding

Art Unit: 1639

ligand is diimine ligands (see e.g. pg. 6414, left col., lines 15-24; pg. 6414, Scheme 1). Johnson et al. disclose two synthetic schemes for the polymerization of ethylene (see e.g. pg. 6414, left col., lines 15-24; pg. 6414, right col., lines 1-4; pg. 6414, Scheme 1). In the first synthetic scheme the metal catalyst, i.e. the metal with diimine ligands and methyl groups, is activated with an activator that result in a loss of a methane (refers to displacing the solublizing ligand, and instant claims 99 and 107) and forming a diethyl ether adduct, and exposing the metal adduct to ethylene (refers to a monomer) that result in a polymer, and the polymer is analyzed by NMR, i.e. nuclear magnetic resonance, (see e.g. pg. 6414, left col., lines 15-29; pg. 6414, Scheme 1; pg. 6415, Table 1). In the second synthetic scheme the metal catalyst, i.e. the metal with diimine ligands and bromine groups, is activated with an activator (refers to without displacing the solublizing ligand) and exposing the metal catalyst to ethylene (refers to a monomer) that result in a polymer, and the polymer is analyzed by NMR, i.e. nuclear magnetic resonance, (see e.g. pg. 6414, right col., lines 1-4; pg. 6414, Scheme 1; pg. 6415, Table 1).

Additionally, the limitation that the '*solublizing ligand reduces the catalytic activity of the metal-ligand composition in the polymerization mixture in the polymerization reaction by less than about 80%*' is a functional limitation or a property of the claimed solublizing ligand and it is presumed to be inherent. See MPEP § 2112.01, which states that:

II. >< COMPOSITION CLAIMS — IF THE COMPOSITION IS PHYSICALLY THE SAME, IT MUST HAVE THE SAME PROPERTIES

"Products of identical chemical composition can not have mutually exclusive properties." A chemical composition and its properties are inseparable. Therefore, if the prior art teaches the identical chemical structure, the properties applicant discloses and/or claims are necessarily present. In re Spada, 911 F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (Applicant argued that the claimed composition was a pressure sensitive adhesive containing a tacky polymer while the product of the reference was hard and abrasion resistant. "The Board correctly found that the virtual identity of monomers and

procedures sufficed to support a prima facie case of unpatentability of Spada's polymer latexes for lack of novelty."

The ligand of Johnson et al. is the same as the claimed solublizing ligand, i.e. an unsubstituted alkyl. Thus, the claimed functional property limitation of the solublizing ligand, i.e. *'solublizing ligand reduces the catalytic activity of the metal-ligand composition in the polymerization mixture in the polymerization reaction by less than about 80%'* and instant claim 91, is inherent to the ligand Johnson et al.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a soluble metal precursor comprising a solublizing ligand, and the method of screening the metal-ligand composition for activity by way of polymerization reaction as taught by Johnson et al. in the method of Weinberg et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to include a soluble metal precursor comprising a solublizing ligand, and the method of screening the metal-ligand composition for activity by way of polymerization reaction in the method of Weinberg et al. since both Weinberg et al. and Johnson et al. disclose the method of making diimine Ni and pd complexes, i.e. analogous art, (Weinberg: col. 12, line 65 to col. 13, line 11; Johnson: pg. 6414, left col., lines 1-18). Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have reasonably expectation of success in the combination of Weinberg et al. and Johnson et al. because Johnson et al. shown the successful polymerization of ethylene using the soluble metal catalyst.

2. Claim 122 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinberg et al. (US Patent 6,030,917) and Johnson et al. (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1995, 117(23), pgs. 6414-6415) as

Art Unit: 1639

applied to claims 90-95, 98-102, 106, 107, 113, 114, and 116-119 above, and further in view of Murata et al. (US Patent 5,892,075).

Weinberg et al. teach the methods for the synthesis and characterization of arrays, i.e. libraries of catalysts and organometallic compounds (see e.g. Abstract; col. 1, lines 16-25; col. 3, lines 30-36). Weinberg et al. disclose a method of making an array of metal-ligand compounds wherein the step comprises reacting a metal binding ligand with a metal ion (refers to the metal precursor) (see e.g. col. 3, lines 37-54; col. 9, line 45 to col. 10, line 15). The array comprises different metal-ligand compounds at known location and the synthesis can be conducted using solution-phase synthetic technique (refers to the limitation of a plurality of discrete reaction vessels contained by integrated structure and contain different metal-ligand compounds, and claim 3) (see e.g. col. 3, lines 55-64; col. 10, line 66 to col.11, line 12; fig. 14). The synthesis also includes adding an activator such as $\text{PhNMe}_2\text{HB}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4$ (refers to claims 14-15, 47-49) (see e.g. col. 11, lines 28-37). The metal ion is transition metal ions (refers to claim 9)(see e.g. col. 11, lines 13-17; col. 24, lines 46-48). The metal-binding ligand includes ligands such as heterocyclic compounds (refers to claim 2) and ancillary ligands (refers to 16-19) (see e.g. col. 15, line 61 to col. 16, line 11; col. 16, lines 20-34; col. 16, line 35 to col. 21, line 61). Additionally, the libraries are screened for useful property such as polymerization reaction (see e.g. col. 11, lines 38-67; col. 26, line 63 to col. 27, line 10).

Johnson et al. disclose the methods of using soluble transition metal-based catalysts for polymerization of ethylene and I-olefins (see e.g. pg. 6414, left col., lines 1-7; pg. 6414, Scheme 1). The transition metal is palladium and nickel (refers to claim 9) (see e.g. pg. 6414, left col., lines 15-24; pg. 6414, Scheme 1). The solublizing ligand is methyl and Br (refers to claims 10,

Art Unit: 1639

22, 40-41) (see e.g. pg. 6414, right col., lines 1-4; pg. 6414, Scheme 1). The metal-binding ligand is diimine ligands (see e.g. pg. 6414, left col., lines 15-24; pg. 6414, Scheme 1). Johnson et al. disclose two synthetic schemes for the polymerization of ethylene (see e.g. pg. 6414, left col., lines 15-24; pg. 6414, right col., lines 1-4; pg. 6414, Scheme 1). In the first synthetic scheme the metal catalyst, i.e. the metal with diimine ligands and methyl groups, is activated with an activator that result in a loss of a methane (refers to displacing the solublizing ligand) and forming a diethyl ether adduct, and exposing the metal adduct to ethylene (refers to a monomer) that result in a polymer, and the polymer is analyzed by NMR, i.e. nuclear magnetic resonance, (see e.g. pg. 6414, left col., lines 15-29; pg. 6414, Scheme 1; pg. 6415, Table 1). In the second synthetic scheme the metal catalyst, i.e. the metal with diimine ligands and bromine groups, is activated with an activator (refers to without displacing the solublizing ligand) and exposing the metal catalyst to ethylene (refers to a monomer) that result in a polymer, and the polymer is analyzed by NMR, i.e. nuclear magnetic resonance, (see e.g. pg. 6414, right col., lines 1-4; pg. 6414, Scheme 1; pg. 6415, Table 1).

Additionally, the limitation that the '*solublizing ligand reduces the catalytic activity of the metal-ligand composition in the polymerization mixture in the polymerization reaction by less than about 80%*' is a functional limitation or a property of the claimed solublizing ligand and it is presumed to be inherent. See MPEP § 2112.01, which states that:

II. >< COMPOSITION CLAIMS — IF THE COMPOSITION IS PHYSICALLY THE SAME, IT MUST HAVE THE SAME PROPERTIES

"Products of identical chemical composition can not have mutually exclusive properties." A chemical composition and its properties are inseparable. Therefore, if the prior art teaches the identical chemical structure, the properties applicant discloses and/or claims are necessarily present. In re Spada, 911 F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (Applicant argued that the claimed composition was a pressure sensitive adhesive containing a tacky polymer while the product of the reference was hard and

abrasion resistant. "The Board correctly found that the virtual identity of monomers and procedures sufficed to support a prima facie case of unpatentability of Spada's polymer latexes for lack of novelty.").

The ligand of Johnson et al. is the same as the claimed solublizing ligand, i.e. an unsubstituted alkyl. Thus, the claimed functional property limitation of the solublizing ligand, i.e. *'solublizing ligand reduces the catalytic activity of the metal-ligand composition in the polymerization mixture in the polymerization reaction by less than about 80%'* and instant claim 91, is inherent to the ligand Johnson et al.

The method combination of Weinberg et al. and Johnson et al. disclose the method of making and screening an array of metal-ligand compositions. However, neither Weinberg et al. nor Johnson et al. expressly include the addition of a deprotonating agent in the method of synthesizing the metal ligand compound and the deprotonating agent is BuLi.

Murata et al. disclose a process for synthesizing metallocene compounds (see e.g. Abstract; col. 3, lines 7-14). The metal includes Hf(IV) (see e.g. col. 10, lines 23-38). The synthetic method of the metal compound comprise of the addition of the deprotonating agent, which is n-BuLi (see e.g. col. 11, lines 31-40).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the addition of a deprotonating agent in the method of synthesizing the metal ligand compound and the deprotonating agent is BuLi as taught by Murata et al. in the method combination of Weinberg et al. and Johnson et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to include the addition of a deprotonating agent in the method of synthesizing the metal ligand compound and the deprotonating agent is BuLi in the method combination of Weinberg et al. and Johnson et al. for the advantage of providing an efficient

Art Unit: 1639

synthesis of metallocene compounds (Murata: col. 5, lines 48-56). Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have reasonably expectation of success in the combination of Weinberg et al., Johnson et al., and Murata et al. because Murata et al. disclose by examples the synthesis of metallocene compounds with the addition of the deprotonating agent (see e.g. col. 12, line 35 to col. 21, line 49).

Withdrawn Rejection(s)

15. The rejections of claims 1-6, 9, 10, 14-19, 21, 22, 40, 41, 47-49, 52, 54-58, and 69-71 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite have been withdrawn in light of applicant's cancellation of claims 1-10 and 14-71.

16. The rejection of claims 1-6, 9-10, 14-19, 21-22, 40-41, 47-49, 52, and 54-58 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Weinberg et al. (US Patent 6,030,917) and Johnson et al. (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1995**, 117(23), pgs. 6414-6415) has been withdrawn in view of applicant's cancellation of claims 1-10 and 14-71.

17. The rejection of claims 70 and 71 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Weinberg et al. (US Patent 6,030,917) and Johnson et al. (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1995**, 117(23), pgs. 6414-6415) as applied to claims 1-6, 9-10, 14-19, 21-22, 40-41, 47-49, 52, and 54-58, and further in view of Murata et al. (US Patent 5,892,075) has been withdrawn in view of applicant's cancellation of claims 1-10 and 14-71.

Art Unit: 1639

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to My-Chau T. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-0810. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday: 8:00-2:30; Tuesday-Thursday: 7:30-5:00; Friday: 8:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew J. Wang can be reached on 571-272-0811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mct
September 12, 2005


PADMASHRI PONNALURI
PRIMARY EXAMINER